

# Information Packet

2008

School of Family Studies  
and Human Services

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Family Life Education and Consultation, Life Span  
Human Development, Marriage and Family Therapy

**Kansas  
State  
University**

## INTRODUCTION

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We welcome your interest in the Ph.D. specialization in the School of Family Studies and Human Services in the College of Human Ecology at Kansas State University. This land-grant university is located on a 668 acre campus in Manhattan nestled in the rolling Flint Hills area of northeast Kansas. The campus is approximately a two hour drive west of Kansas City via Interstate Highway 70. The College of Human Ecology graduate faculty in this interdepartmental Ph.D. program are active in teaching, research, extension, and professional service at the state, national, and international professional levels.

This guide is intended to provide an overview of the specializations and to answer basic questions about graduate studies. The guide includes information about the specializations, the application process, advising, enrollment, and basic program requirements and procedures.

For more detailed program information, please refer to the information for each specialization and contact the specialization coordinators directly.

### **Life Span Human Development (LSHD)**

Rick Scheidt, Ph.D.  
College of Human Ecology  
School of Family Studies and Human Services  
315 Justin Hall  
Manhattan, KS 66506

785-532-1483  
[rscheidt@ksu.edu](mailto:rscheidt@ksu.edu)

### **Family Life Education and Consultation (FLEC)**

Karen Myers-Bowman, Ph.D.  
College of Human Ecology  
School of Family Studies and Human Services  
308 Justin Hall  
Manhattan, KS 66506

785-532-1491  
[karensm@ksu.edu](mailto:karensm@ksu.edu)

### **Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT)**

Anthony Jurich, Ph.D.  
College of Human Ecology  
School of Family Studies and Human Services  
320 Justin Hall  
Manhattan, KS 66506

785-532-1488  
[jurich@ksu.edu](mailto:jurich@ksu.edu)

The Graduate Catalog, Graduate Student Handbook, Application, Virtual Orientation, and the other information about the KSU Graduate School is available at <http://www.ksu.edu/grad/>.

## ADMISSION PROCEDURES

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### **Deadlines**

Application to the Marriage and Family Therapy specialization must be completed by January 2 for Fall admission. (This program begins Fall only.) Due to the high demand for enrollment in this specialization, applications will not be considered after this date.

Application to the Family Life Education and Consultation specialization must be completed by February 1 for Summer and Fall admission and by October 1 for Spring Admission. Due to the high demand for enrollment in this specialization, applications will not be considered after this date.

Application to the Life Span Human Development specialization must be completed by February 1 for Summer and Fall admission and by October 1 for Spring Admission. Due to the high demand for enrollment in this specialization, applications will not be considered after this date.

***International applicant deadlines for all programs are as follows: dates listed above or Graduate School dates, whichever comes first.***

## **Application Materials**

- 1) A complete application file includes:
  - a) Graduate School application (form enclosed).
  - b) One official transcript of all previous higher education courses, credits, and grades.
  - c) Statement of objectives designating your desired area of specialization and emphasizing your academic and/or professional experience and your professional goals. **\*(See specific instructions for the Marriage and Family Therapy Program statement of objectives at the end of this section.)**
  - d) At least three letters of recommendation (forms enclosed). References should complete the form and include letter of support.
  - e) Qualifying examination results as required for admission to the specialization of choice:
    - LSHD: Graduate Record Examination (GRE)
    - FLEC: None
    - MFT: Graduate Record Examination (GRE)
  - f) Resume or curriculum vitae.
  - g) Application Fee of 30 U.S. dollars. There are three options for paying your application fee:
    - Personal check of \$30.00 (drawn on a U.S. bank) made payable to Kansas State University Graduate School.
    - Money order or cashier's check for \$30.00 U.S. made payable to Kansas State University Graduate School.
    - On-line credit card payment.
- 2) In addition to the application materials listed, **international students must submit:**
  - a) TOEFL scores: A TOEFL score of 600 or above is required by the School of Family Studies and Human Services.
  - b) Affidavit of Financial Support
  - c) Application Fee of 55 U.S. dollars. There are three options for paying your application fee:
    - Personal check of \$55.00 (drawn on a U.S. bank) made payable to Kansas State University Graduate School.
    - Money order or cashier's check for \$55.00 U.S. made payable to Kansas State University Graduate School.
    - On-line credit card payment.

## **Marriage and Family Therapy Program Statement of Objectives**

Within this "Statement of Objectives," we expect you to respond, in depth, to each of the following questions. This statement should be double spaced and 10-to-15 typed pages in length. Please note that applications are evaluated on the completeness with which these questions are addressed and the degree of insight demonstrated. Special attention is paid to expression of clear long-term professional goals, awareness of family of origin related issues and assets, openness to self-exploration, previous research experiences, and clarity of research interests. Applicants to the MFT/Ph.D. program should be prepared to balance interests in research, clinical experience, supervision, and mental health policy. It is important for applicants to know that the MFT doctoral program requires a full-time commitment and that it is not a commuter-oriented program.

1. Why do you want to be a marriage and family therapist?
2. What are your professional goals upon completing the degree?
3. Because the Master's degree is the terminal degree in MFT for practitioners, explain how achieving a Ph.D. will facilitate the accomplishment of your goals.
4. Discuss your research, interests, questions, and goals. Elaborate any training, skills, or experiences in the area of research. Identify specific research skills you wish to focus on in your doctoral program.
5. What do you consider to be strengths that will help you achieve your goals? Address both personal and academic background. If you have something unusual in your background that might be considered an asset, please discuss it.
6. What do you consider to be the area that will need most attention during your training? If you have something unusual in your background that might be considered a deficit, please discuss it.
7. What critical events from the past have most influenced your present personal and professional development?
8. Discuss your place in your family of origin. In particular, what about your relationships with your parents and other family members do you believe will constitute resources to make you a better therapist? What patterns or issues will you need to work on?

**Please send all correspondence and application materials to:**

**Connie J. Fechter**  
**Graduate Program Admissions Coordinator**  
**School of Family Studies and Human Services**  
**College of Human Ecology**  
**304 Justin Hall**  
**Kansas State University**  
**Manhattan, KS 66506**  
[fechter@humec.ksu.edu](mailto:fechter@humec.ksu.edu)

## QUALIFYING EXAMINATION INFORMATION

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### Graduate Record Examination and Graduate Management Admission Test

These qualifying exams are given at different times and locations each year. Information concerning the test dates, sites, cost, etc. can be obtained by writing or calling:

Educational Testing Service  
P.O. Box 6000  
Princeton, NJ 08541-6000  
609-771-7670  
<http://www.ets.org>

**PLEASE HAVE THE TEST RESULTS SENT DIRECTLY FROM THE TESTING SERVICE TO KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL.**

### Test of English as a Foreign Language

International students are required to take the TOEFL for consideration for admission to Kansas State University. A TOEFL score of 600 is required for admission to the Ph.D. Program in Human Ecology. A student may be admitted with a score below 600, but will be tested for English proficiency prior to enrollment and may be required to enroll in the English Language Program. The TOEFL is given worldwide at different times and locations each year. Information concerning the test dates, sites, cost, etc. can be obtained by writing or calling:

TOEFL/TSE Services  
P.O. Box 6151  
Princeton, NJ 08541-6151  
215-750-8050 or 609-771-7900 for a bulletin  
<http://www.toefl.org>

## APPLICATION REVIEW

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Your application materials will be forwarded to the coordinator of your designated specialization. Upon completion of your application, the coordinator will forward your completed file to the graduate faculty in your specialization for review.

Graduate faculty members in the area of specialization will review your application materials and recommend either admission or non-admission to the Graduate School. Admission may be limited in order to maintain high faculty-student ratios. The faculty will consider all relevant information in making admission decisions, including the availability of appropriate major professors. Generally an M.S./M.A. will be required for admission, but in exceptional cases admission into the Ph.D. program without completion of a masters degree may be approved. You will receive notification of acceptance from both the Graduate School and the program chairperson.

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

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Some scholarships are awarded to graduate students. The university on-line scholarship application is available by accessing the following website: [http://www.ksu.edu/sfa/application/scholarship\\_app.html](http://www.ksu.edu/sfa/application/scholarship_app.html). A paper copy of the application can be obtained by contacting the Office of Financial Assistance at 785-532-6420 or by email at [ksufa@ksu.edu](mailto:ksufa@ksu.edu).

## ADVISING AND ENROLLMENT

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Upon admission, a temporary major professor will be named to help you plan your first semester of coursework.

## OVERVIEW OF PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

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The Ph.D. requires a minimum of 90 semester hours of credit beyond the bachelor's degree, including dissertation research for at least 30 semester hours. There are also specific requirements for each area of specialization. Specialization faculty should be contacted for more details. The number of hours from a previously completed masters degree which may be counted toward the 90 hour requirement is decided upon by the student's supervisory committee and reviewed by the Graduate School. However, no more than 30 semester hours can be transferred from a completed masters degree to the Ph.D. program. Some hours as a non-degree student at KSU or some other institution may also be included if approved by the supervisory committee.

After completion of most coursework, a student must take written exams and an oral exam for admission to candidacy. After passing all admission to candidacy exams, a student must work with the supervisory committee to develop an acceptable dissertation research proposal. After completion of the research and delivery of an accepted draft of a dissertation, a student is eligible to take the final oral exam. The Graduate School requires an interval of at least seven months between completion of the preliminary exams (admission to candidacy) and the final oral defense of the dissertation.

### **General Requirements for the Ph.D. in Human Ecology (Program of Study)**

1. Major Area (minimum of 30 hours)
  - a. Course work (minimum of 30 hours)
    - i. Core courses (12). The list of core courses varies with the specialization.
    - ii. Dissertation Proposal Seminar (1)
    - iii. Other course work in major area (17)
  - b. Dissertation Research (minimum of 30 hours)
2. Supporting Area (15-30 hours minimum)
  - a. Statistics (select one of four sequences)
    - i. STAT 702 Statistical Methods for Social Science  
or  
STAT 703 Statistical Methods for Natural Scientists  
and  
STAT 704 Analysis of Variance  
STAT 705 Regression and Correlation Analyses  
OR
    - ii. PSYCH 802 Quantitative Methods in Psychology  
PSYCH 805 Experimental Design in Psychology  
or
    - iii. SOCIO 825 Quantitative Methods  
SOCIO 925 Specialized Approaches to Sociological Research  
OR
    - iv. EDCEP 817 Statistical Methods in Education  
EDCEP 917 Experimental Design in Education Research
  - b. Course in research methods specified by specialization (3)
  - c. Other supporting courses (minimum of 9 hours)

The supporting courses must provide clear, direct, and logical support for the major area of study and research.

### **Supervisory Committee**

Before the end of your second semester of study, you should choose a major professor. In consultation with your intended major professor, you should form a supervisory committee consisting of four or more members, including at least one member outside your department. After the graduate supervisory committee is formed, the program of study is finalized.

### **Preliminary Examinations**

At least three written exams are required. The examinations should cover 1) the major area of study, 2) research methods/statistics, and 3) a supporting area or an area related to the dissertation research (or both). After you have passed all of your written preliminary exams, your major professor may schedule a preliminary oral exam. Approval by the supervisory committee results in your being admitted to candidacy.

### **Dissertations**

You will work with your major professor to develop a dissertation proposal. Your major professor will then convene a meeting of the supervisory committee to discuss, modify if necessary, and approve your proposal. Following this approval, you enroll in the Dissertation Proposal Seminar and present your proposal to students and faculty in the School of Family Studies and Human Services for discussion. After the dissertation is completed, you should present a dissertation draft to the committee for their approval at the oral dissertation defense. Following your successful oral dissertation defense, you prepare your finished dissertation for your major professor's signature and submission to the Graduate School for the award of your Ph.D.